ORIGINAL

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July 12, 2004



Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Attorney Docket No. 8006-0019-13

Confirmation No. 7593 Application No. 09/556,439

Dear Commissioner:

Over four years have passed since I submitted this patent application. Your office sent me a detailed action on July 25, 2003. I had counsel at the time of the filing of the original application, but am not able to afford counsel at this time. I had a number of draft versions of the patent and did not know which one had been filed. In my confusion, I tried to respond to the detailed action, but because I had multiple drafts of the patent application, I responded to the wrong version. The incorrect version had twenty-one claims. I met with Mr. Tuan Vu and Mr. John Chavis in your offices on June 3, 2004, and obtained a copy of the correct patent application with thirty-one claims.

I had responded to the detailed action prior to our meeting of June 3, 2004. However, the response was delivered to your offices by Airborne Express and was refused by the mail room even though it was addressed correctly. On June 2, 2004, I hand delivered my response. A note was put in your computer by your mail room supervisor, stating that it was their error in refusing to accept the response. However, when I re-submitted the response, the check that was submitted at the same time was for an amount that was \$5 less than the correct amount, so the response was ultimately refused again. Subsequently, I spoke with Mr. Tuan Vu, who had reviewed the matter with his supervisors, and I was given permission to extend my response period to July 17, 2004, if I paid the appropriate fee, which I have done.

My response to your detailed action regarding my patent application follows. I hope it will prove satisfactory. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Attorney Docket No. 8006-0019-13

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Dear Commissioner:

Enclosed please find:

- X Application, revised version, showing designations for changes;
- \underline{X} Application, revised version, clean version; and
- X Response from Applicant, to Detailed Action of July 25, 2003.

Very truly yours,

John Kenneth Amick

JKA:mmk Encs.